

The Magnolias' new album Off the Hook (Alias) grabs you with loud guitars that sometimes crunch, sometimes thrash but never push you into oblivion. Singer-songwriter, rhythm guitarist, John Freeman's songs are always on the edge, his modest vocals full of humor and crazy rage on songs like "Take Me Away" and "Never Lasts." The band rips it up like a cyclone, but they never lose sight of the melody, nor drown out the vocals. They sound like they're having a great time which is what rock 'n' roll is really all about.

The next night, local band Red Paint People celebrate the release of their new single. The three songs "Spludge Fest Now," "Blank Space" and "Rock Chuck" are grungy, noisy and nasty with lead singer Chappy Ass spewing words in torrents. "Blank Space" is the standout, but the show should be a spludge fest.

The Magnolias with Nova Mob and Caterpillar: Fri., May 29 at 10 p.m.  
Red Paint People with Marcus Hook and High Karate, Sat., May 30 at 10 p.m.  
(both shows at) Khyber Pass Pub, 56 S. 2nd St., 440-9683.

--Peter Brown